

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable John Barrasso United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

Thank you for your April 23, 2013, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe expressing your concern regarding potential issuance of the EPA and the Department of the Army (Army) guidance clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction. I understand your interest in this important issue.

There is an urgent need to clarify the geographic scope of protections provided under the CWA. The EPA and Army issued joint guidance in 2008 to provide consistent procedures for identifying jurisdictional waters under their regulations after the Supreme Court decisions of *SWANCC* and *Rapanos*. The 2008 guidance, however, has created uncertainty, raised costs, and contributed to delays for those asking whether or not particular waters are covered by the CWA. In response to these problems, the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers developed new guidance as a timely interim step to address the need for improved procedures. Our long-term goal is to revise our regulations to provide a more comprehensive and effective solution under the Administrative Procedures Act and consistent with the CWA and Supreme Court decisions. The agencies' guidance is now undergoing interagency review at the Office of Management and Budget. In the meantime, we are also working to prepare a joint notice of proposed rulemaking for public notice and comment. No final decisions have been made on the schedule for either issuance of final guidance or initiation of a notice and comment rulemaking process.

The agencies share your perspective regarding the importance of waters of the United States' rulemaking and agree that such rulemaking may not extend jurisdiction beyond that established by Congress under the law as clarified by Supreme Court decisions in *SWANCC* and *Rapanos*. As you correctly point out, not all waterbodies are subject to protection under the CWA. We believe, however, that the 2008 guidance is unnecessarily vague and confusing, creating avoidable problems in the process of identifying which waters are covered by the CWA. We are eager to respond to these problems in a timely, scientifically valid, and transparent process under the law.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

### JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Ron Johnson United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Johnson:

Thank you for your April 23, 2013, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe expressing your concern regarding potential issuance of the EPA and the Department of the Army (Army) guidance clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction. I understand your interest in this important issue.

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Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner

Acting Assistant Administrator

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable John Thune United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Thune:

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Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Tim Scott United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Scott:

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Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Pat Roberts United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Roberts:

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Nancy K. Stoner



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OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Jerry Moran United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Moran:

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Nancy K. Stoner



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OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Mike Lee United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lee:

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Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

# JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Roger F. Wicker United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wicker:

Thank you for your April 23, 2013, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe expressing your concern regarding potential issuance of the EPA and the Department of the Army (Army) guidance clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction. I understand your interest in this important issue.

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Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Jeff Sessions United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sessions:

Thank you for your April 23, 2013, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe expressing your concern regarding potential issuance of the EPA and the Department of the Army (Army) guidance clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction. I understand your interest in this important issue.

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Nancy K. Stoner



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OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Marco Rubio United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Rubio:

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Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

## JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

### JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable John S. McCain United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McCain:

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Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

### JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Mike Johanns United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Johanns:

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

## JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Johnny Isakson United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

#### Dear Senator Isakson:

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OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable John Hoeven United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hoeven:

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## JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

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The Honorable Deb Fischer United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Fischer:

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There is an urgent need to clarify the geographic scope of protections provided under the CWA. The EPA and Army issued joint guidance in 2008 to provide consistent procedures for identifying jurisdictional waters under their regulations after the Supreme Court decisions of *SWANCC* and *Rapanos*. The 2008 guidance, however, has created uncertainty, raised costs, and contributed to delays for those asking whether or not particular waters are covered by the CWA. In response to these problems, the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers developed new guidance as a timely interim step to address the need for improved procedures. Our long-term goal is to revise our regulations to provide a more comprehensive and effective solution under the Administrative Procedures Act and consistent with the CWA and Supreme Court decisions. The agencies' guidance is now undergoing interagency review at the Office of Management and Budget. In the meantime, we are also working to prepare a joint notice of proposed rulemaking for public notice and comment. No final decisions have been made on the schedule for either issuance of final guidance or initiation of a notice and comment rulemaking process.

The agencies share your perspective regarding the importance of waters of the United States' rulemaking and agree that such rulemaking may not extend jurisdiction beyond that established by Congress under the law as clarified by Supreme Court decisions in *SWANCC* and *Rapanos*. As you correctly point out, not all waterbodies are subject to protection under the CWA. We believe, however, that the 2008 guidance is unnecessarily vague and confusing, creating avoidable problems in the process of identifying which waters are covered by the CWA. We are eager to respond to these problems in a timely, scientifically valid, and transparent process under the law.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

## JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Mike Crapo United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

#### Dear Senator Crapo:

Thank you for your April 23, 2013, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe expressing your concern regarding potential issuance of the EPA and the Department of the Army (Army) guidance clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction. I understand your interest in this important issue.

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Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

# JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Thad Cochran United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cochran:

Thank you for your April 23, 2013, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe expressing your concern regarding potential issuance of the EPA and the Department of the Army (Army) guidance clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction. I understand your interest in this important issue.

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Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

# JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Daniel Coats United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

**Dear Senator Coats:** 

Thank you for your April 23, 2013, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe expressing your concern regarding potential issuance of the EPA and the Department of the Army (Army) guidance clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction. I understand your interest in this important issue.

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Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

### JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable James M. Inhofe United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Inhofe:

Thank you for your April 23, 2013, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe expressing your concern regarding potential issuance of the EPA and the Department of the Army (Army) guidance clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction. I understand your interest in this important issue.

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Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

### JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Dean Heller United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heller:

Thank you for your April 23, 2013, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe expressing your concern regarding potential issuance of the EPA and the Department of the Army (Army) guidance clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction. I understand your interest in this important issue.

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Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Chuck Grassley United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

Thank you for your April 23, 2013, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe expressing your concern regarding potential issuance of the EPA and the Department of the Army (Army) guidance clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction. I understand your interest in this important issue.

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Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

### JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Enzi:

Thank you for your April 23, 2013, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe expressing your concern regarding potential issuance of the EPA and the Department of the Army (Army) guidance clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction. I understand your interest in this important issue.

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Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

### JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable John Cornym United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

#### Dear Senator Cornym:

Thank you for your April 23, 2013, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe expressing your concern regarding potential issuance of the EPA and the Department of the Army (Army) guidance clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction. I understand your interest in this important issue.

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Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

### JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Tom Coburn United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

Thank you for your April 23, 2013, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe expressing your concern regarding potential issuance of the EPA and the Department of the Army (Army) guidance clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction. I understand your interest in this important issue.

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Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

### JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

Thank you for your April 23, 2013, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe expressing your concern regarding potential issuance of the EPA and the Department of the Army (Army) guidance clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction. I understand your interest in this important issue.

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Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

### JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable John Boozman United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

#### Dear Senator Boozman:

Thank you for your April 23, 2013, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe expressing your concern regarding potential issuance of the EPA and the Department of the Army (Army) guidance clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction. I understand your interest in this important issue.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

### JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable David Vitter United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Vitter:

Thank you for your April 23, 2013, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe expressing your concern regarding potential issuance of the EPA and the Department of the Army (Army) guidance clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction. I understand your interest in this important issue.

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Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

## JUN 1 9 2013

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Roy Blunt United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

#### Dear Senator Blunt:

Thank you for your April 23, 2013, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe expressing your concern regarding potential issuance of the EPA and the Department of the Army (Army) guidance clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction. I understand your interest in this important issue.

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